

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 COA-01 H-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-02

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P R 131300Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3533

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, EFIS, EC

SUBJ: B&B FISHERIES - MIMI B

REF: GUAYAQUIL 1409

1. LARRY CREWS INFORMED CONGEN OFFICER MORNING OF DEC. 12 THAT BIX BONNEY NOW PLAYING WITH IDEA OF SENDING ONLY \$11,000 OF TOTAL \$56,000 REQUESTED BY CREWS DIRECTLY HERE C/O BANK OF AMERICA AND DEPOSITING REST IN ESCROW ACCOUNT IN NEARBY THIRD COUNTRY BANK, POSSIBLY IN PANAMA. CREWS SAYS THIS REPRESENTS EARLIER WORRY OF BONNEY THAT ECUADOREANS CANNOT BE TRUSTED AND HE DOES NOT WANT ALL OF MONEY IN COUNTRY UNTIL MIMI B HAS CLEARED ECUADOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS. CREWS SAYS HE THOUGH BONNEY HAD GIVEN UP THIS NOTION SEVERAL DAYS AGO.

2. NO MONEY HAS YET ARRIVED. BANK OF AMERICA AND CONGEN BELIEVE THAT IF BONNEY TRIES THIS LATEST MOVE IT MIGHT RESULT IN COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF TALKS AND POSSIBLE RESIGNATION OF TRUJILLO FROM CASE. CREWS IS FURTHERMORE BEING FRUSTRATED IN ATTEMPT TO TALK DIRECTLY WITH BONNEY TO BRIEF HIM ON CASE, BEING FORCED TO GO THROUGH ELY WHO CREWS BELIEVES IS NOT TELLING BONNEY THE WHOLE STORY. ELY ALSO NOT RETURNING CALLS TO CREWS. LATTER HAS NOW RESORTED TO CALLING CLOSE FRIEND IN SAN FRANCISCO, SEAN E. O'BRIEN, WHO IN TURN TRYING TO CONVINCE BONNEY OF PROPER COURSE OF ACTION, I.E., SEND COMPLETE \$56,000 HERE C/O BANK OF AMERICA IN NAME OF

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TRUJILLO WHO CAN BE TRUSTED TO SETTLE CASE AND HELP GET BOAT OUT OF

ECUADOR.

3. LATEST TWIST, UNKNOWN TO CREWS, IS THAT ELY CALLED BANK OF AMERICA MANAGER AILLON DEC. 11 ASKING HOW TO HANDLE PAYMENT, SAYING HE DID NOT TRUST SENDING SO MUCH MONEY TO CREWS WHO MIGHT "TAKE OFF TO BRAZIL" WITH THE BOAT. AILLON ADVISED ELY ALONG LINES IN LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 2. PRIVATELY, HE HAS TOLD CONGEN THAT HE WISHES HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF CASE AND THAT IF BONNEY DOES NOT GET GOING TRUJILLO WILL WALK OFF LEAVING CREWS HOLDING THE BAG. HE FURTHER CONCERNED THAT NAME OF BANK WILL GET EMBROILED IN CONTROVERSY IF BONNEY PLAYS GAMES WITH TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND AROSEMENA WILL USE THIS AS EXCUSE TO ATTACK U.S. INTERESTS IN GENERAL.

4. WE FEEL IT WISE NOT TO INFORM CREWS OF LATEST ELY INTRIGUE. CREWS HAS BEEN SICK OFF AND ON SINCE ARRIVAL AND SEEMS CONFUSED AND TENSE. HE DOES NOT LIKE ELY AND KNOWLEDGE OF ELY/AILLON CALL MAY CAUSE HIS RETURN TO U.S. IN MEANTIME, IN ORDER TO KEEP CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS OPE, WE HAVE ADVISED CREWS TO INFORM TRUJILLO THAT HE STILL NEEDED. IF DEPARTMENT HAS MEANS OF INFLUENCING CASE, EITHER DIRECTLY WITH BONNEY OR THROUGH SEN. STEVENS, IT MAY BE PRUDENT TO ADVISE THAT FUNDS BE TRANSFERRED QUICKLY, THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE NO CHANCE OF NEGOTIATING SETTLEMENT FOR SMALLER AMOUNT, AND THAT BANK OF AMERICA IS TRUSTED AND RESPECTABLE ORGANIZATION.
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